DC

1

KNIGHT TERRORS: PUNCHLINE™

DAWN OF DC

LORE - MEYER - GUIMARÃES

13+ TEEN

TERRY McGINNIS CONFRONTS GOTHAM'S BURIED SINS

BATMAN BEYOND

NEO-GOTHIC

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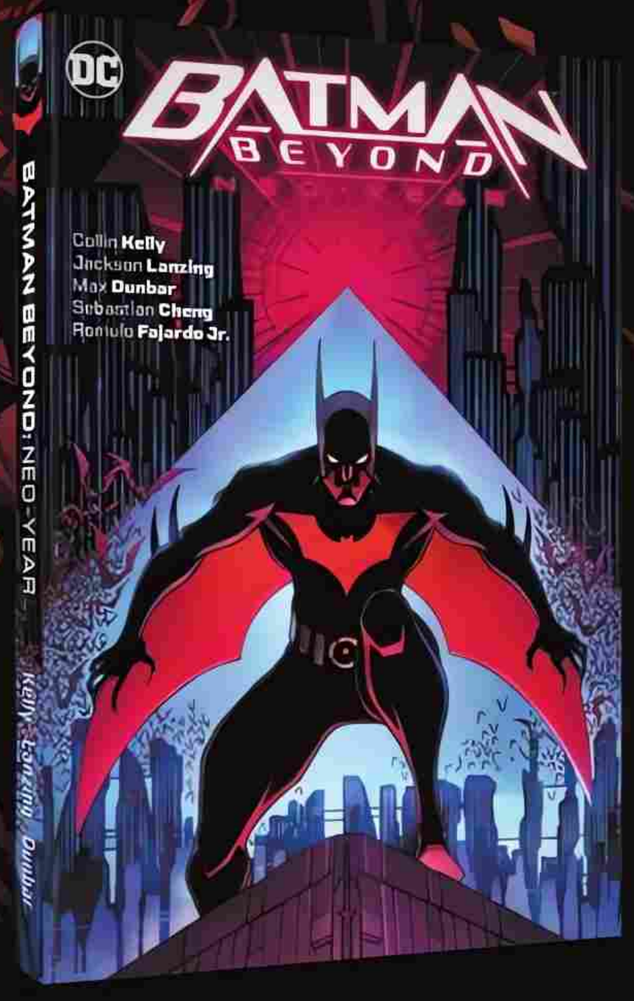
Written by
COLLIN KELLY
JACKSON LANZING

Art by
MAX DUNBAR

6 issues • July

Also available:
Batman Beyond: Neo-Year



KRSH

=SIGH= TOO EASY.

THEY'RE ALL OUT LIKE A LIGHT. MAKING ALL MY KNOWLEDGE OF GASES AND DRUGS...USELESS.

THEY DON'T EVEN **REACT** TO THE INTRODUCTION OF MY NEWEST BATCH-- I KNOW, I TRIED.

WELL, AT LEAST ALL OF MY EXPERIMENTATION SEEMS TO HAVE MADE ME AND MY GANG **IMMUNE** TO WHATEVER MADE EVERYONE ELSE COUNT SHEEP.

HEY, ***PUNCHLINE...*** GOTCHA THAT ***ACCESS CARD*** YOU WAS LOOKIN' FOR.

A MYSTERIOUS AND DEADLY NEW VILLAIN NAMED INSOMNIA HAS STRUCK! THE ENTIRE WORLD HAS BEEN FORCED INTO ETERNAL SLUMBER, INCLUDING ALL THE HEROES AND VILLAINS AS INSOMNIA SEARCHES THEIR DREAMS FOR THE NIGHTMARE STONE. CAN THEY SURVIVE BEING TRAPPED WITHIN THEIR DARKEST FEARS?

SO IT'S TRUE? THE *BATS* HAVE ALL ABANDONED THE *CLOCK TOWER?*

SNUCK AROUND A BIT, GOTCHA THAT VIDEO EVIDENCE YA WANTED...

YOU'RE SURE THE SECURITY PROTOCOLS ARE DOWN?

USED MARTY TA TEST IT.

AND?

ORIGINAL RUN-THROUGH MISSED ONE. WE FIXED THAT.

NO FIXING *MARTY* THOUGH.

I'LL HAVE ACCESS TO THE BATS' WHOLE NETWORK *AND* THE EVIDENCE TO SHOW THEY'RE ALL JUST MINDLESS AUTHORITARIANS...

WHAT WAS THAT?

THERE'S *NO* WAY...

LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE STAYED UP PAST THEIR *NAPTIME.*

THANK GOD. I WAS ABOUT TO *FALL ASLEEP* FROM THE *BOREDOM.*

LET'S TUCK YOU IN FOR THE *NIGHT.*

NOT THE **WINGED FREAK** I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED.

OX

PROBABLY CAUGHT WIND OF **MARTY** "DISARMING" THE SECURITY AT THE TOWER.

THWACK

ALSO EXPECTED MORE **QUIPS.** ISN'T SHE ONE OF THE **SNARKY** ONES?

INSTEAD, SHE'S GOT A GRIN THAT REMINDS ME OF JOKER'S GAS.

BUT IF SHE'D BEEN **GASSED,** SHE'D HAVE GONE DOWN BY NOW...

KRAK

IT'S FUN TO EXTERMINATE A *RODENT.*

I DID IT. I KILLED BATGIRL.

OX

I'M LIVING THE DREAM.

HA! HAHAHA-HA!

I THINK I LANDED THIS JOKE EVEN BETTER THAN HE DID.

SHE EVEN LEFT ME A CONGRATULATORY GIFT.

OX

HA HA HA HA HA HA

OUT THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF SLEEPING GOTHAMITES, PREY TO SOME FREAK **CHEMISTRY** OR **MAGIC.**

OX

NONE OF THEM KNOW THE WAY I'VE DESTROYED THEIR FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY. YET.

MY TRIUMPHANT LAUGHTER ECHOES, EVEN WITH THE ROARING ENGINE BENEATH ME.

GOTHAM MATTRESS

SLEEP

PILLOWS

MY MIND DRIFTS TO FIGURING OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED AROUND ME, BUT REALLY-- IT **DOESN'T** MATTER.

I'VE WON, AND NO ONE CAN STOP ME.

THE RIDE TO THE CLOCK TOWER FEELS IMPOSSIBLY LONG AND EXHILARATINGLY SHORT, ALL AT THE SAME TIME.

SOON I'LL GET TO SEE **INSIDE** THE HEADQUARTERS I'VE WANTED FOR SO LONG.

BY THE TIME EVERYONE WAKES UP, I'LL HAVE CONTROL OF ONE OF THE BEST SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS IN THE CITY.

TONIGHT'S PROOF THAT I'M THE MOST DANGEROUS PERSON IN GOTHAM...

ONLY THING I'M MISSING IS AN **AUDIENCE.**

PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THE CLOCK TOWER AS IF IT WAS DESTROYED, BUT IT LOOMS LARGE AND UNTOUCHED IN THE NIGHT SKY.

IT'S FUNNY HOW THE SHEEP CAN CONVINCE THEMSELVES OF A FAKE REALITY WHEN THE TRUTH IS STARING DOWN AT THEM.

DOESN'T TAKE ME VERY LONG TO FIND A WAY IN.

OOOOH...

THE PLACE **LOOKS** BOTH LIVED IN AND ABANDONED. COBWEBS REFLECT THE LIGHT FROM WELL-LIT TERMINALS.

DUST STREAKS TABLES OF RECENTLY MODIFIED TOOLS.

THEY'VE MADE A STRANGELY SENTIMENTAL MUSEUM FOR THEMSELVES. PORTRAITS PORTRAY THEM AS A HAPPY GOTHIC COSPLAY FANTASY.

BATGIRL AND THE OTHERS WORKED AS HARD TO DOCUMENT THEIR **CARE** FOR EACH OTHER AS THEY HAVE TO LORD OVER GOTHAM.

GRAPPLING HOOKS, GLIDERS, GADGETS GALORE...

ALAS, POOR BATGIRL...

...YOU'RE ***FRICKIN'*** DEAD.

IS THERE **ANYTHING** WITH THE **BAT BRANDING** THEY WON'T PUT ON DISPLAY?

Ox

THE CLOCK TOWER IS LARGER THAN I WOULD HAVE ASSUMED...

THE UNNERVINGLY PRECIOUS PHOTOS GIVING WAY TO FACELESS DISPLAYS OF COSTUMES...

I IMAGINE BATGIRL ALONE IN HERE, WONDERING IF SHE'S COMFORTED BY ANY OF THIS...

IF IT MADE HER FEEL LESS LONELY WHILE THE OTHERS WERE IN THE STREETS.

...IF THE COSTUMES AND FRAMED FACES WERE ENOUGH OF AN **AUDIENCE** FOR HER TO FEEL **SEEN.**

IGNORE THE FAMILY-FRIENDLY-FREAK DECOR, PUNCHLINE...

...YOU'VE GOT THE ***WHOLE*** WORLD IN FRONT OF YOU.

DIDN'T REALIZE ***BATGIRL*** WAS A ***FANGIRL.***

COULDN'T SHE JUST LIKE OLD SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS LIKE A NORMAL ***STALKER?***

I DON'T THINK ***I'M*** THE INTRUDER IT MEANS...

NONE OF THIS IS YOURS.

IMPOSSIBLE! I SAW HER--

OX

GRAAAGH!

DOESN'T MATTER.

WHOA!

MUST BE CONNECTED TO THE SLEEPING CITY. MUST BE.

MUST BE.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A PAIR OF HEADPHONES ON THAT MUFFLED THE WORLD, AND THEN TAKEN THEM OFF?

OX

AAGGH!

KRAK

YOU DIDN'T REALIZE **HOW** MUTED THE REST OF REALITY WAS, HOW THINGS YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD WERE **SILENT.**

WHEN YOU TAKE THEM OFF, EVEN THE SMALLEST SOUND--THE SPARKING, HISSING ELECTRICITY OF CABLES--ROARS TO LIFE, IMPOSSIBLY LOUD.

THE HEADPHONES ARE OFF.

I CAN **HEAR** SO MUCH.

SQUEE

I HEAR EVERY SECOND OF IT.

IT CAN'T BE REAL. SHE CAN'T BE REAL.

Ox

THERE'S A HIGH-PITCHED SHRIEKING FROM THE MONITORS, A SQUELCHING FROM THE FLESH...

IT CAN'T BE REAL. SHE CAN'T BE REAL.

THERE'S SCORCHING, ELECTRIFIED FLESH AS WIRES WARP AND WEAVE THROUGH THIS MONSTROSITY.

IT CAN'T BE REAL. SHE CAN'T BE REAL.

THIS HAS TO BE THE EFFECT OF DREAM-INDUCING DRUGS, BUT I FEEL SPARKS HITTING ME, AND THE SCREECHING KILLING MY EARDRUMS...

TODAY WASN'T SUPPOSED TO END WITH ME RUNNING LIKE SOME HORROR-MOVIE VICTIM.

OX

BUT MOST HORROR-MOVIE GIRLS AREN'T SURROUNDED BY BAT-TOYS.

I HAVE NO FAITH IN THIS LEAP...

KKRSH

SHE DOESN'T HIT ME, BUT I FEEL THE FORCE OF THE AIR BEHIND HER SWING-- IF THIS WASN'T REAL, WOULD I FEEL THAT?

...BUT I'M RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS.

AS THE GLIDER SLOWS MY DESCENT, THE WORLD AROUND ME IS MUFFLED AGAIN BY THE NIGHT AIR.

FOR THE LONGEST OF SECONDS, THE STRANGE STATIC AND MONSTROUS BATGIRL ARE TOO FAR AWAY TO CARE ABOUT.

NO NO NONONO!

CRNCH

BUT I FEEL SOMETHING BEARING DOWN ON ME, I FEEL IT SO STRONGLY I CAN ALMOST SEE ITS DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE LIMBS AND CORDING...

I CAN SEE IT ALL, THE IMPOSSIBLE ANGLE FROM ABOVE ME.

ALL OF THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE...

KNIGHT TERRORS: PUNCHLINE
CHAPTER ONE

DANNY LORE WRITER
LUCAS MEYERS ARTIST
ALEX GUIMARÃES COLORIST
STEVE WANDS LETTERER
GLEB MELNIKOV COVER & 1:50 VARIANT COVER ARTIST
BEN OLIVER AND OTTO SCHMIDT VARIANT COVER ARTISTS
TONY SHASTEEN 1:25 VARIANT COVER ARTIST
DUSTIN NGUYEN MIDNIGHT VARIANT COVER ARTIST
BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR
PUNCHLINE CREATED BY JAMES TYNION IV AND JORGE JIMENEZ

...BUT ALL OF IT IS **REAL.**

Ox

TO BE CONCLUDED...

IT'S NOT JUST A DREAM!

KNIGHT TERRORS: WONDER WOMAN

CAN JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK SAVE THE WAKING WORLD?

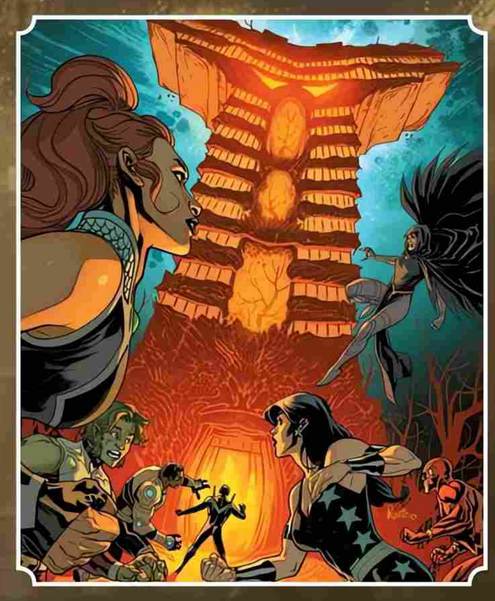
Written by
JOSIE CAMPBELL
STEPHANIE WILLIAMS
Art by
JUAN FERREYRA
MEGHAN HETRICK
Cover by JAE LEE

DC
DAWN OF DC
JULY

KNIGHT TERRORS: TITANS

THE KIDS AREN'T ALL RIGHT!

Written by
ANDREW CONSTANT
Art by
SCOTT GODLEWSKI
Cover by
YANICK PAQUETTE



KNIGHT TERRORS: SHAZAM!

MARY MARVEL IN DOUBLE DANGER!

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Written by
MARK WAID
Art by
ROGER CRUZ
Cover by
DAN MORA

KNIGHT TERRORS: BLACK ADAM

KAHNDAQ DESCENDS INTO THE NIGHTMARE REALM!

Written by
JEREMY HAUN
Art by
JEREMY HAUN

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

DAWN OF DC

KNIGHT TERRORS

IT'S NOT JUST A DREAM!

Knight Terrors: Night's End #1
cover by Howard Porter and Romulo Fajardo Jr.

MONTH TWO CHECKLIST

AUGUST 1

- ■ *Knight Terrors: Batman #2*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: Black Adam #2*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: Poison Ivy #2*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: Ravager #2*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: The Joker #2*

AUGUST 8

- ■ *Knight Terrors #3*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: Green Lantern #2*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: Robin #2*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: Shazam! #2*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: The Flash #2*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: Zatanna #2*

AUGUST 15

- ■ *Knight Terrors: Catwoman #2*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: Nightwing #2*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: Punchline #2*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: Superman #2*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: Wonder Woman #2*

AUGUST 22

- ■ *Knight Terrors #4*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: Action Comics #2*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: Angel Breaker #2*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: Detective Comics #2*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: Harley Quinn #2*
- ■ *Knight Terrors: Titans #2*

AUGUST 28

- ■ *Knight Terrors: Night's End #1*

THE TERRIFYING TWO-MONTH EVENT CONCLUDES IN AUGUST!

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